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index would render the material of the book more accessible.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

Biochemistry of plants

In revision, the first volume of CZAPEK's *Biochemistry of plants*² has grown from 584 pages to 828 pages. The historical introduction contains 18 pages as in the previous edition. The portion on "general biochemistry" contains 220 pages as compared with 77 pages in the old edition. Under "special biochemistry" the first part ("The sugars in the metabolism of plants") has been increased from 397 pages to 469; and the second part ("The lipoids in the metabolism of plants") has grown from 94 pages to 112. One of the most notable changes in the general organization of the book is the treatment of the lipoids after the sugars instead of before. This seems desirable because of the order of synthesis of the two groups of substances in the plant.

The "general biochemistry" contains the two chapters of the old edition, "The substratum of the chemical processes in the living organism" and "Chemical reactions in the living plant organism," with two additional chapters entitled "Chemical stimulation effects" and "The chemistry of adaptation and heredity." In this part one is impressed with the excellent summary of the literature on general characters of colloids, gels and adsorption phenomena, catalysis, general chemistry of enzymes, and kinetics of enzyme action.

The part on sugars in the metabolism of plants shows few changes in organization. The additional space used is largely due to the growth of the literature of the subject.

The part on lipoids is divided into two sections, "The nutrient lipoids of the plant" and "The cytolipoids of plants." In the first section, the chapter headings are identical with those of the first edition: "The reserve fats of seeds," "Resorption of fats in seed germination," "Fat synthesis in ripening seeds and fruits," "Reserve fats in stems and leaves," "Reserve fats in thallophytes, mosses, ferns, and pollen grains." The section on cytolipoids has undergone some changes in organization and more in content. The chapter headings are "Plant cerobrosides," "Sterinolipoids of plants (phytosterol and related bodies)," "Plant chromolipoids," and "The production of wax."

The table of contents has been greatly improved by the addition of heads and subheads, giving a much better grouping of the chapters. The treatment of such subjects as photosynthesis, alcoholic fermentation, respiration, and other plant processes reminds one that the work is by no means a plant chemistry in the narrow sense of the word. It is more nearly a physiology of metabolism in plants, with main emphasis on the fundamental chemistry and physics involved in the processes.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

² CZAPEK, FR., *Biochemie der Pflanzen*. 2d ed. Vol. I. pp. xix+928. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1913.